



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

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Tuesday, August 18.

Day started with a bang after President breakfast with bipartisan leaders of Senate regarding Geneva protocol. President had Scott in tow and had a letter from Cardinal Krol of Pittsburgh regarding Solicitor General refusal to back Administration position on parochial schools, and President really hit the fan. Had Ehrlichman and me in, read the riot act - ordered Ehrlichman to get it changed or Solicitor General fired today. President said was both concerned by the politics of this but more because his policy is not being carried out.

Then got into Kisinger problem again. Wants me to let Kissinger know that we caught him on his bluff on this one - he's building up a monstrous story that does him no good. President's real concern is the erosion of confidence this brings about - he worries about relying on Kissinger's other input. Also was upset because Kissinger was ten minutes late for Senate breakfast, had to go ahead without him.

Things picked up a little later when Kissinger popped in to announce he had word from North Vietnam that they wanted to meet with him in Paris and their big guys would be there, a week from Saturday. This brightened Kissinger's attitude enormously - and may help cure the current problem. New problem arises as Kissinger wants to go secretly, but President thinks he should go in open because will get caught, which will be a political problem. So I'm supposed to swing him around.

New problem with Mitchell arises from the Catholic situation, in that John clearly is not always carrying out President's orders - but won't admit it to President, which President recognizes. John does this on basis of judgment that it is best for President - but still makes it difficult.

Busy morning of appointments - had to squeeze in a few extras, including John Irwin with Bill Rogers. He will be announced tomorrow as Under Secretary of State, so that's finally settled. Then President off to New York for *Daily News* meeting and dinner.